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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/171,049	10/12/1998	EBRAHIM REZAI	JA138	7592

27741 7590 01/29/2002

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
PATENT DIVISION
SHARON WOODS TECHNICAL CENTER- BOX C18
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CINCINNATI, OH 45242

EXAMINER

PRATT, CHRISTOPHER C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1771

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2002

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A-S-77

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/171,049

Applicant(s)

REZAI ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher C. Pratt

Art Unit

1771

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 02 January 2002 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☒ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☒ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-19 and 39-41.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____

TERREL MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

Christopher C. Pratt
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1771

Continuation of 2. NOTE: Applicant has amended the claims to include the phrase "dry state." This amendment may have possible 112 indefinite problems. Generally, the word "dry" refers to the absence of liquid. This, however, does not appear to be applicant's intended meaning. How do the microfibers act as glue if they are not tacky? This limitation has not been previously considered.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant has amended the claims in an attempt to overcome the teaching of Minto. Applicant's arguments rely on a non-entered amendment.

Applicant's accompanying declaration states that one of the inventors of the '405 patent, which is the primary reference used in the current rejection, did not contemplate the use of glue microfibers to bind the absorbant polymer to the substrate. This declaration is not persuasive for two reasons. First, one inventor cannot make legal statements concerning the thoughts and contemplations of other inventors. Therefore, the other inventors of '405 may have contemplated the use of glue microfibers. Second, the test for obviousness is what the prior art would suggest to a person having ordinary skill in the art. It is the examiner's position that even if the inventors of '405 did not contemplate the use of glue microfibers, others having ordinary skill in the art would have found such a modification obvious.